

Hurricanes – Are You Ready?

DHEC Hurricane Day 2012
Office of Public Health
Preparedness

Hurricane Preparedness

- Be prepared at home
- Be prepared at work
- Evacuation
- Damage assessment and response
- Recovery at home
- Recovery at work

Be Prepared at Home

- Get a kit
- Make a plan
- Be informed

Get A Kit

- Be prepared to survive in your home for a week (at least):
 - Without power in your neighborhood
 - With contaminated public water supplies
 - With intermittent or no cell phone service
 - With bank machines and gas pumps out of service
 - With bad road conditions (damaged pavement or bridges, debris, no traffic lights or signs)
 - With closed or damaged or un-stocked grocery stores and drug stores

Get A Kit

- Be prepared to evacuate if you live in an evacuation zone or if your home is severely damaged
- Be ready to take your disaster survival supplies with you

There are plenty of helpful planning guides

- The DHEC hurricane webpage offers comprehensive information on an emergency supply kit

http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/ophp/hurricane/supply_kit.htm

- American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/>

- Federal Emergency Management Agency and

<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

SC Hurricane Guide <http://www.scemd.org/>

Make a Plan

- Plan with your family members for:
 - Meeting place outside the house in case of fire
 - Meeting place outside of your neighborhood in case of evacuation
 - An out-of-area emergency contact person
 - Where you will go when you evacuate
- Emergency contact numbers
 - Use the Red Cross Safe and Well website
- Review your insurance coverage
- Get First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training

Be Informed

- Know the types of disaster or emergency that may affect your home or community
- Monitor your weather alert radio and news media
- Use weather-related web pages and cell phone apps

Be Prepared at Work

- Know the plan
- Know your responsibilities
- Know your contacts
- Be flexible

Know the Plan

- Each DHEC region has an emergency plan that describes the disaster response activities that must be done
- Each region has a Continuity of Operations Plan that describes the succession of authority, plans for relocation if a facility is damaged, and priority activities
- Emergency plans may be found on the intranet at <http://dhecnet/co/ophp/>

Know Your Responsibilities

- Talk with your supervisor about the duties you may be assigned during a disaster.
- Update your information on the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities database on the DHEC intranet at <http://dhecnet/co/technologies.htm>

Know Your Responsibilities

- Take the appropriate training courses for your role, including the DHEC's Role in Emergency Preparedness and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training <http://dhecnet/co/oqm/php/>

Know Your Contacts

- Be sure you have a list of emergency telephone numbers and email addresses so you can contact your supervisor, your colleagues, and your Region's emergency operations center
- Be sure your supervisor has your emergency contact numbers
- Phone service may be disrupted
- Texts sometimes go through when voice does not
- Email may work

Know Your Contacts

- Even if you have evacuated, you are expected to report for work after the storm has passed.
- If you cannot get in contact with your supervisor or Region emergency operations center, then contact the nearest DHEC office.

Be Flexible

- You may be called on to work in an unfamiliar place, doing unfamiliar tasks under difficult conditions, without power or other utilities.
- During a disaster, documentation of travel, work time, purchases and work activity is very important. This is usually the last thing on your mind. But it is very important.

Evacuation

- DHEC has many responsibilities before the storm and during the evacuation process:
 - Staffing Regional and State Emergency Operations Centers
 - Monitoring evacuation of healthcare facilities
 - Coordinating emergency medical services assistance with evacuation
 - Opening and operating Special Medical Needs Shelters

Evacuation

- Staff who live in evacuation zones or mobile homes in the path of the storm must evacuate their homes when ordered to do so.
- This can create tension and conflict between family and work responsibilities.
- Staff who have duty assignments for emergency management or SMNS operations need to plan very carefully to see that their families are safe and that they can report for their assigned duties.

Evacuation

- Plan ahead for your evacuation destination.
- It must be out of the surge zone.
 - [Duh, I know. But you might be surprised at the choices people make.]
- Leave early. Expect delays while leaving.
- Plan on a place to stay for a week [or more] for a major storm. Expect delays on returning.
- Plan for your pets-make arrangements for their care.
- Shelters are really a last resort. Really.
- Take your important papers, insurance, identity, documentation of your property, prized photos
- Keep your gas tank full.

2011 SC Hurricane Evacuation Behavioral Study

- Will coastal residents evacuate for a hurricane warning?
 - 77% say Yes for a Major Hurricane (Cat 3,4,5)
 - 21% say Yes for a Hurricane (Cat 1, 2). [DUH!!!!]
- Will coastal residents evacuate when they are told to evacuate?
 - 90% say Yes for a Major Hurricane (Cat 3,4,5) **Mandatory Evacuation**
 - 75% say Yes for a Hurricane (Cat 1,2) **Mandatory Evacuation**
- 90% said they would not need help to evacuate. Of the 10% that will, 43% will need special care and 36% will need transportation.
- 51% have pets, and 95% of those will bring them.
- 41% would shelter with family or friends, 29% would go to a hotel, only 8% would go to a public shelter

USC Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, Department of Geography

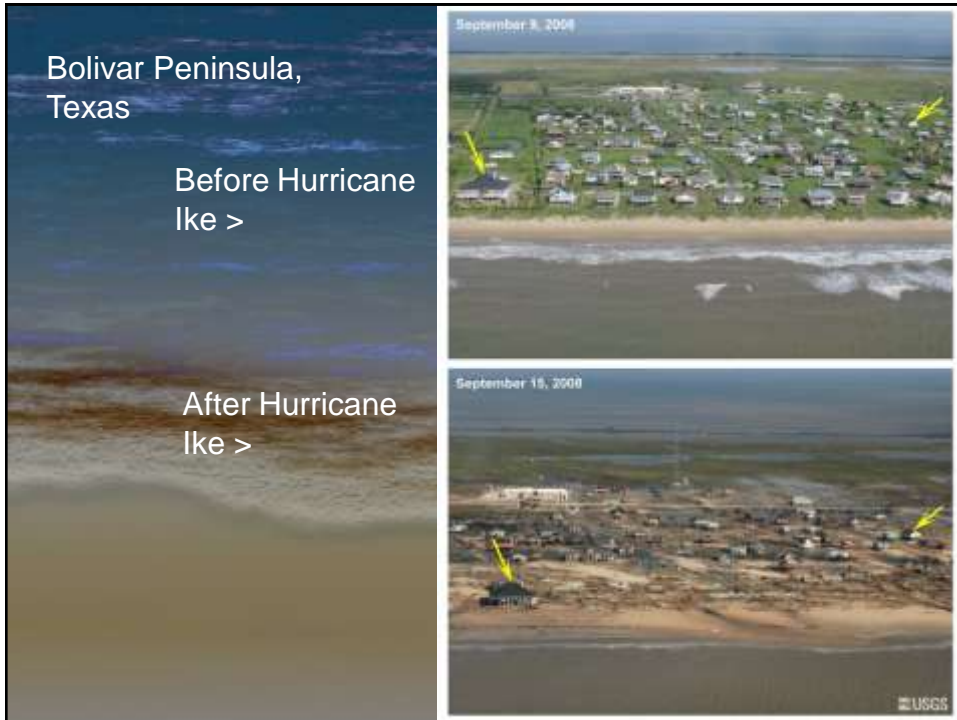
Bolivar Peninsula,
Texas

Before Hurricane
Ike >

After Hurricane
Ike >

Why evacuating when you are told to evacuate is a good idea. Ike was a strong Category 2 (110 mph) when it made landfall on September 13, 2008.





Returning and Damage Assessment

- **Job 1: Restoring public health, medical care and environmental services**
- Staff who evacuated must return to work on recovery efforts as soon as feasible.
- Damage assessment begins when the storm ends

Priority Response Activities for Health Services

- Assessing health department facilities to see if they are operational
- Continuing Special Medical Needs sheltering
- Implementing COOP Plans to prioritize restoration of services
- Staging and deploying CASPER community assessment teams
- Conducting disease control surveillance and response
- Re-opening services for WIC, Home Health and Immunizations

Priority Response Activities for Health Regulation

- Communicating with healthcare facilities in the affected area
- Coordinating damage assessment with healthcare facilities
- Staging and deploying Emergency Medical Services resources for response in the affected areas
- Checking on the status of evacuees in the receiving healthcare facilities
- Deploying Fire/Life Safety Officers to inspect damaged facilities

Priority Response Activities for Environmental Services

- Assessing the damage to public water supply and wastewater treatment systems
- Issuing Boil Water Notices as necessary
- Coordinating debris management and identifying disposal sites
- Assessing chemical and hazardous material issues
- Deploying EQC Teams to the regions
- Responding to sanitary issues at shelters

Priority Response Activities for Administration

- Staging DHEC personnel for deployment to the regions
- Coordinating transportation and logistics for field teams
- Making necessary purchases for equipment and supplies

Recovery at Home

- The trip home can be dangerous
 - Downed trees, power lines, traffic signs and signals
- Return during daylight and check for hazards of all sorts
- If you have a generator, obey all use and safety precautions
- Be careful with home and yard clean-up
- Prepare for making insurance claims

Recovery at Work

- Check the status of each employee
 - Where are they?
 - What is their situation?
 - Are they able to report for work?
- Check the status of each public health worksite
 - What is the damage?
 - What needs to be done to restore functionality?
 - Where can we set up operations?

Recovery at Work

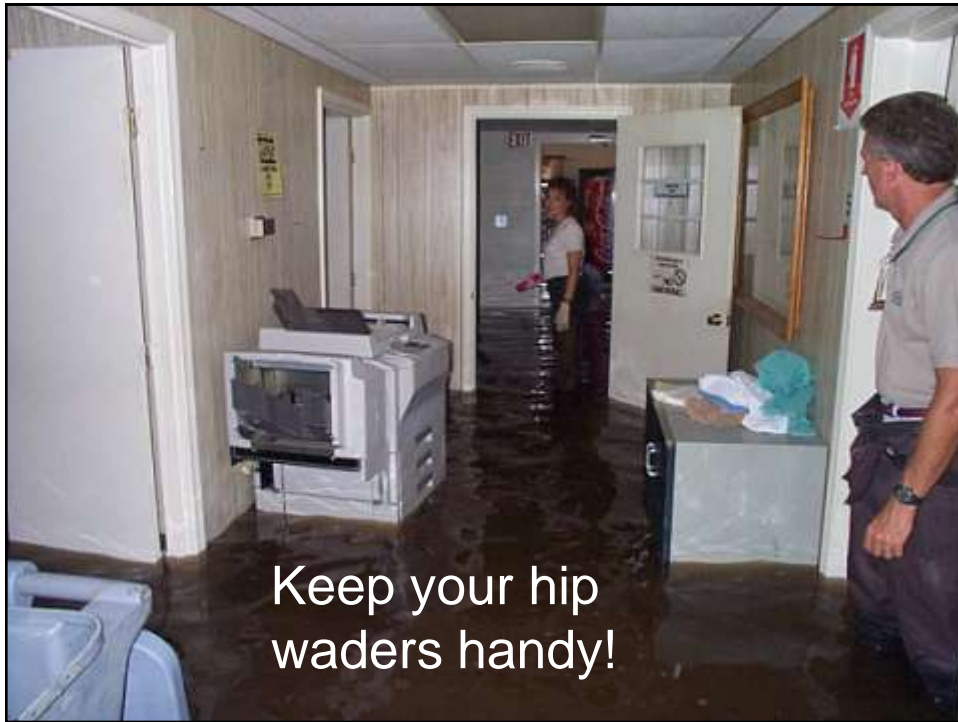
- Significant numbers of employees may not be able to work due to the impacts of the storm
- Staff may need to be re-assigned to high priority tasks
- Teams from other DHEC regions and other states will need to be staged, assigned and deployed quickly to establish a public health presence and deliver priority services

Recovery at Work

- Restore priority services right away
 - WIC can't wait. Home Health patients can't wait. Public information, tetanus immunizations, re-opening of healthcare facilities, provision of medical care, environmental health inspections, SMNS shelter operations, disease control, water supply and wastewater treatment, and vector control are all priorities.







Keep your hip
waders handy!